

In the Claims:

1. (ORIGINAL) Apparatus for casting metal strip comprising:
  - (a) a pair of casting rolls forming a nip there between;
  - (b) a pair of confining plates adjacent the ends of the casting rolls;
  - (c) an elongated metal delivery nozzle having a plurality of discrete nozzle pieces disposed along the nip end to end capable of discharging molten metal to form a casting pool supported on the casting rolls above the nip confined by the confining plates;
  - (d) nozzle supports capable of supporting the nozzle pieces defining outer nozzle ends the delivery nozzle nearest the confining plates; and
  - (e) delivery nozzle drives capable of moving the nozzle pieces defining the outer nozzle ends nearest the confining plates to control the distance between the outer nozzle ends and the confining plates.
2. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the metal delivery nozzle drives move the nozzle supports separate from the movement of the confining plates to control the distance between the confining plates and the outer nozzle ends nearest the confining plate before casting.
3. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the delivery nozzle drive is capable of moving the nozzle pieces nearest the confining plates to maintain a distance between the nozzle pieces defining the outer nozzle ends and the confining plate with wear of the confining plates, the outer nozzle ends or both.
4. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in Claim 3 wherein the confining plates are biased by the delivery nozzle drive and said nozzle pieces defining the outer nozzle ends and the confining plates are moved together.
5. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in Claim 1 comprising in addition a bias to urge the confining plates inwardly toward each other.
6. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said bias to bias the confining plates inwardly toward each other is separate from the delivery nozzle drive.
7. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in Claim 5 wherein said bias to bias the confining plates inwardly toward each other operates with the delivery nozzle drive.
8. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controlled distance is maintained is on the order of 15 millimeters or less.

9. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus for casting metal strip as claimed in claim 1 wherein the control distance is maintained between about 7 and 9 millimeters.

Claims 10-12 are withdrawn in view of restriction.

10. (CANCELLED IN VIEW OF RESTRICTION)

11. (CANCELLED IN VIEW OF RESTRICTION)

12. (CANCELLED IN VIEW OF RESTRICTION)

Claims 13-14 are hereby cancelled.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CANCELLED)